

What is claimed is:

1. A steer-by-wire steering apparatus for a vehicle including a communication navigation system capable of obtaining an absolute position of the vehicle, said steering apparatus comprising:

a steering operator member operatively connected to a steerable road wheel via an electric wire;

drive means for steering the steerable road wheel, in response to operation of said steering operator member, via the electric wire;

detection means for detecting a steering angle of said steering operator member and an angle of travel direction of the vehicle;

angle-of-travel-direction calculation means for calculating an angle of travel direction of the vehicle on the basis of the absolute position of the vehicle obtained via the communication navigation system; and

control means for controlling said drive means such that the angle of travel direction calculated by said angle-of-travel-direction calculation means agrees with the steering angle of said steering operator member.

2. A steer-by-wire steering apparatus as claimed in claim 1 which further comprises second angle-of-travel-direction calculation means for calculating an angle of travel direction of the vehicle on the basis of an output of said detection means without using the absolute position of the vehicle obtained via the communication navigation system, and wherein, when the communication navigation system is out of order, said control section controls said drive

means on the basis of the angle of travel direction calculated by said second angle-of-travel-direction calculation means.